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Aide Insists Dodd Germany Trip 'Coverup'

Remark Stands Over Objection

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Thomas J. Dodd's former administrative assistant, insisting the Connecticut Democrat had gone to Germany two years ago to help Julius Klein, said Wednesday the official reason advanced for the mission is "a coverup and no more."

The remark by James P. Boyd Jr. drew an angry objection from Dodd's attorney, but Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee, let it stand.

It came as the attorney, John F. Sonnett, sought to shake Boyd's testimony that Dodd had told him the purpose of the six-day trip was to help Klein, a friend and registered agent for West German interests.

Officially, the trip was part of a Senate Internal Security subcommittee investigation of murder as a tool of Soviet policy.

Sonnett challenged Boyd's recollection of two-year-old conversations and read correspondence dealing with plans for a Dodd trip to interview a Russian, Bogdan Stashinsky, held in a German prison.

Boyd had testified he first had heard the Stashinsky inquiry discussed as a reason for the German trip only a few days before Dodd left, April 6, 1964.

His testimony came as the six-member bipartisan committee held its first public hearing in an investigation of misconduct charges against Dodd.

Sonnett said Boyd was not Dodd's expert on cold war matters. Boyd acknowledged that another aide, David Martin, was the expert in that field.

Then came this exchange:

Sonnett: It is quite understandable, Mr. Boyd, is it not, that the reason you didn't know about the Stashinsky affair . . . was that the primary responsibility . . . was in the hands of Mr. Martin.

Boyd: It's possible. . . . My belief is that the Stashinsky story was a cover-up and no more.

Q. But the fact is that you didn't know about the Stashinsky affair until a few days before the senator left on that trip.

A: Yes sir, but there wasn't much to know.